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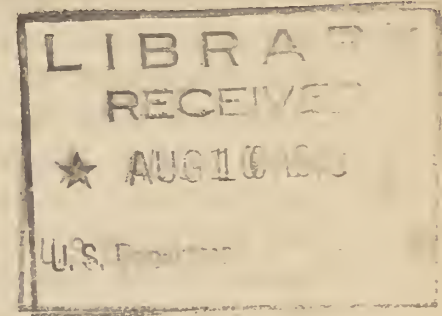
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SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of
developments within the Service and is not for
distribution to others

July 40
August 1, 1940



YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Rapid formation of Soil Conservation Districts, resulting in increased demands upon the personnel and facilities of our Service, challenges the best efforts and loyalty of every worker. It is more essential than ever that all employees of the Service be thoroughly informed on the philosophy of the district plan in order to meet the calls for leadership and guidance.

We are printing below a statement recently made by Chief Bennett:

The Soil Conservation District is a unit of government established under State law by farmers and ranchers for the purpose of enabling them to exercise their own initiative and control in the conservation of soil and soil resources and the prevention and control of soil erosion.

State laws under which districts are organized vary as do the State laws under which counties, towns or school districts are organized, but the fundamental purpose of all State soil conservation districts acts is the same. Under most State laws the farmers concerned exercise control through the ballot in the creation of a district, in the election of a majority, at least, of the administrative body and in the establishment of ordinances, if any, for effecting the program.

By a vote of the people concerned the district is brought into being and by vote it may be eliminated. It is subject to no other control and is not an arm of the Federal government. It does have authority to obtain assistance of State

and Federal agencies or individuals to the extent and in a manner that the governing body of the district and another agency, governmental or private, may determine.

On July 31, 1940, the Soil Conservation Service was assisting 232 districts in 28 states under an agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the district in which the District Governing Bodies exercise the authority vested in them by the State law for using such assistance in rendering service to landowners and operators. Congress has so far provided specifically for assistance to districts of two agencies of the Federal Government, the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture through appropriations, and WPA under the Relief Act of 1941. The services these two agencies can render the districts are in no manner conflicting but are supplementary and complementary to each other, and in many places neither can render, under present conditions, the maximum assistance to districts without the cooperation of the other. Districts should avail themselves of the services of these agencies as far as resources will permit.

Even with the technical, material, and labor assistance of these agencies, the districts could hardly be expected to fully succeed or attain the desired quantity of satisfactory work without wholehearted and active assistance from the State Agricultural Extension Services. In fact, the work of the State Extension Service is a prerequisite to the proper organization of districts and must be continued in connection with operations and maintenance of the soil conservation program if maximum results are to be obtained.

With one exception, each State Soil Conservation Districts Law includes one or more officers of the State College of Agriculture on the State Soil Conservation Committee. Therefore, Congress and the State legislatures have obligated three service agencies to render assistance to the soil conservation district movement--the State College of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Work Projects Administration. Without the assistance of these agencies the maximum success of districts can hardly be expected, but these three agencies are by no means the only agencies that can assist districts. The Secretary of Agriculture has summed up the whole matter in the following words so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned:

"I hope that other agencies of the Department also will begin to move so that they may be able to work through the soil conservation districts."

In addition to the Department and State Colleges of Agriculture, State agencies or groups, such as community and county land use planning committees, vocational teachers of agriculture and home economics, other educational institutions and State service agencies should find in the districts an opportunity to advance their objectives.

The State Soil Conservation Committee, in whom is vested the administrative authority for the organization of districts and the responsibility for coordination of districts programs, has a responsibility to the districts in helping to obtain assistance of all educational and service agencies interested in land-use programs.

The Soil Conservation Service, by virtue of its activities in connection with districts, has a responsibility to so develop its procedures that other agencies will be encouraged to give assistance to districts when and if requested by the districts' governing bodies.

H. H. BENNETT

OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News:

Most of us in the Soil Conservation Service are convinced that we have upset many of the so-called cut-moded traditions of agricultural practice. I am wondering, however, how many practices we are still accepting and recommending without realizing that they too may or should be replaced with new and better practices, i.e. by those which are even now worked out by the comparatively few who are always the pioneers in any new field.

I am personally interested in cultivation and cover crops as they apply to the control of erosion under orchard conditions. We want to retain the advantages of the old or orthodox "clean" cultivation, and at the same time correct its weaknesses of which the promotion of run-off and erosion is the most important. The answer to this appears to be "duckfoot" or "trashy" cultivation, depending upon the particular implement which is used in the operation.

Another practice which is subject to improvement - or perhaps is more often a misnomer - is the so-called winter cover crop. When used in the average commercial orchard, it is often planted so late in the fall or is so delayed in germination or growth that it is not a winter cover crop at all, but a spring cover crop. In the South where winter protection is needed, it is often lacking because of a poor stand of winter cover crop. Earlier sowing is the natural remedy, but perhaps an even better solution is a summer-planted cover crop which makes its growth in the fall instead of in the spring, and which becomes an anchored mulch during the winter months. Another alternative is to sow the winter cover crop with trashy cultivation so that there is an adequate ground cover whether or not the new cover crop makes a good growth.

The foregoing are merely illustrations. I still ask the question -- Are we of the Soil Conservation Service keeping out of the ruts of status quo as applied to agricultural practices? As the new of today ever becomes the old of tomorrow, so the Radical or Liberal of yesterday is the Conservative of today. Let us all keep not only our open-mindedness but our place in the Advance Guard! Signed: B.T.J.

EXTENSION--SCS CONFERENCES YIELDING RESULTS

As a result of 9 regional conferences recently held between State Extension Services and the Soil Conservation Service to consider basic policies on relationships, plans are now being made to hold similar meetings in many states in order to carry policies agreed upon to the field level of both bureaus.

J. L. Boatman, Chief of the Division of Subject Matter of the Federal Extension Service, was chairman at each of the regional conferences, which were attended by State Extension Directors, State Coordinators of the SCS, Extension Soil Conservationists, and representatives of regional and Washington offices.

The state conferences growing out of the regional meetings will be attended by district extension agents, area conservationists, Extension specialists, as well as the state people attending the first meetings.

Following the state conferences, county agricultural agents and district conservationists will come together for the purpose of working out in specific detail their relationships in Soil Conservation Districts.

Among other definite accomplishments of the regional meetings was the agreement that State Advisory Committees will function more actively with respect to the soil conservation program in their respective states. As a means to this end, the State Advisory Committees in many states will formulate brief plans of work covering essential actions and activities for the year in connection with educational programs and operations work.

Opinion was unanimous following the regional conferences that the problem of dovetailing educational work and operations was greatly clarified. It was generally agreed that instead of attempting to draw an exact division line between education and operations, these two types of activity were so closely integrated that specific segregation is not necessary.

The idea for the regional meetings evolved out of the Land Grant College Association's Washington conference last year. At that time, a sub-committee of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy was formed with F. A. Anderson, Colorado State Extension Director as Chairman. The sub-committee met in Washington and with the cooperation of the Soil Conservation Service and the Federal Extension Service drew up a joint statement of policies on relationships. This statement was approved by Director Wilson of Extension and Chief Bennett of the Service.

CALKINS ON GILA WATERSHED
COMMITTEE

Hugh G. Calkins, Regional Conservator for the Southwest Region, has been named by the National Resources Planning Board as a member of a committee to investigate and report on the effect of upstream conservation measures in the Gila River watershed.

Barton Jones, TVA, is chairman of the committee which includes G. W. Parker, Geological Survey, and Major Jones, of the U. S. Army Engineers Corps.

PROGRESS AND COST OF SOIL
CONSERVATION SURVEYS

The per-acre cost of making soil conservation surveys has dropped from a high of 12 cents per acre in 1936 to less than 4 cents per acre in 1940, according to figures just released by E. A. Norton, Chief, Physical Surveys Division.

The table below shows the year by year progress and cost of making conservation surveys since the work started:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Expended for field surveys</u>	<u>Acreage mapped</u>	<u>Cost per acre</u>
1936	\$180,000	1,501,000	.12
1937	999,000	10,303,000	.099
1938	700,000	10,052,000	.067
1939	669,000	12,635,000	.053
1940	987,000	24,803,000	.037

The rapid increase in the number of acres mapped the last year and the gradual decrease in the cost per acre over the five-year period is attributed to experience gained in developing survey procedure. Some of the physical factors which were thought to be important in the past, have been found unnecessary and have been eliminated in developing surveys for farm planning.

The following table shows conservation survey progress made in soil conservation districts by regions from June 30, 1939 through April 30, 1940. Mr. Norton pointed out that figures for the western regions should not be compared with those of the eastern regions because field mapping is more extensive in the west than the east. That is, the scale of map used in the west is smaller and consequently mapping is more rapid per acre covered:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Area Surveyed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1	365 sq.mi.	.094
2	4,864	.057
3	224	.037
4	9,650	.04
5	300	.05
6	1,760	.016*

<u>Region</u>	<u>Area Surveyed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
7	1,670 sq.mi.	.03
8	664	.006*
9		
10	2,610	.02

* Includes reconnaissance surveys.

The figures indicate that the most mileage covered does not necessarily correlate with the least cost per acre, indicating that better organization, administration and supervision are responsible for the reduction in cost per acre.

FOREIGN VISITOR APPRAISES WORK OF THE SERVICE

Many times, as the saying goes, we can't see the forest for the trees. But from distant Kenya Colony, East South Africa, comes a completely objective picture of the Soil Conservation Service as seen through the eyes of Mr. Colin Maher, who recently made an official study of conservation in this country for his government.

In a brief introduction to his report, Mr. Maher states, "The Chief of the Soil Conservation Service and many of his officers told me that they welcome constructive criticism from foreign visitors and I was urged to speak boldly and frankly". This he has done.

Briefly summarized, some of the problems mentioned in the report are the following:

1. In the beginning the Service started to treat only the physical aspects of erosion, but soon found it necessary to adjust physical plans to the economic status of cooperating farmers.
2. It took some time to secure, for example, engineers or agronomists who could regard a problem without bias toward any particular branch of agricultural science.
3. The issuance of standardized handbooks in certain regions tended to cramp the initiative of individual officers, stereotyping technique in a science that was rapidly changing.

4. Some of the research work seems to have been started with insufficient thought, when the experiments and equipment were designed, as to the data it was hoped to obtain and the use to be made of the data.
5. There is still a tendency of over-centralization in Washington.
6. There is still much specialization. All workers should have a more general knowledge of all aspects of erosion-control.

But for all these problems, Mr. Maher found much to commend in what he saw of the Service's work. "If I am critical of the past and present work of the Soil Conservation Service", he states, "I would have it remembered that my criticism has behind it a great admiration for the spirit and personnel of the organization which Dr. Bennett has built up by his devotion and practical idealism".

Although the supply of the Maher report is extremely limited, one copy is being forwarded to each Regional Conservator.

Soil Conservation Spreads to the South

In a letter to the Secretary of State, the American Vice Consul in San Salvador announced that a soil conservation law had been passed by the national Legislative Assembly. The law recently passed by the Assembly is the first piece of legislation in the history of this Central American Republic dealing with soil and forest conservation.

Among other things, it prohibits the cultivation of cereals and leguminous plants on lands within 200 meters of bodies of water; forbids the destruction of trees on the shore of lakes and ponds; and provides that the owners of lands adjacent to such bodies of water are obliged to plant trees for fruit or lumber or to convert the shores into pasture lands or other type of growth preventive of soil erosion.

BONSTEEL TO TEACH COURSE

Dr. J. A. Bonsteel of the Division of Physical Surveys will teach the course on soil conservation at the USDA Graduate School this fall.

Here's Real Cooperation

Here's a unique example of team work in a soil conservation district according to people who have been checking district programs.

There are 140,346 acres of land in the newly organized East Salt Lake County district. Approximately two-thirds of the area is administered by the U.S. Forest Service; about one-eighth belongs to Salt Lake City; small areas are under the U. S. Grazing Service; and only one-fifth of the district is privately owned.

Through the reclamation of the district, Uncle Sam, the State of Utah, the City of Salt Lake, farmers and ranchers have reached a common understanding of their mutual land problems and are combining their efforts in a unified attack on soil and water wastage.

INFILTRMETER SURVEYS

A conference on infiltrometer surveys for flood control technicians is now underway at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, ten miles out of Asheville, North Carolina.

The conference is being held in two parts. The primary purpose of part I is to train flood control technicians in the operation of the two types of infiltrometers that have been adopted for use in flood control surveys. The major objectives of part II will be to lay the groundwork for the development of the methods that will be used in applying infiltrometer data.

The conference started July 22 and will run through August 3. Part I of the conference will be attended principally by the technicians who will actually operate infiltrometer equipment. In part II, the operating technicians will be joined by survey hydrologists, Washington technicians, and Department consultants, according to G. W. Musgrave who is acting as chairman of the meetings.

SAFETY AWARDS

It may not be headline news in every land, but a great tribute should be paid to the SCS-CCC groups that have received decorations for valor. These decorations are not for military

prowess, but are safety certificates recognizing camps that have completed a year without a lost-time accident. Chief Bennett has issued 163 of these awards to field offices.

Region 10 offers a tip on how more field offices can receive these awards. "Some camps are staging contests between first-aid teams. Teams might first be selected on a work crew or barracks basis. The best team in camp might then compete with teams from other camps."

PRINTERS' INK

"Some Principles of Accelerated Streams and Valley Sedimentation" by Happ, Rittenhouse, and Dobson, Technical Bulletin 695 was published early in July.

"Fifty Years of Contour Orchards" by Grober F. Brown and C. B. Maits, Region 1, will appear in a forthcoming issue of Country Gentlemen. The article deals with soil conservation work in orchards, with particular reference to the Marvania orchards near Hancock, Maryland.

J. T. Bregger, Project Supervisor, Clemson, South Carolina, in the May 18 issue of the Rural New-Yorker sketches the history of orchard planting in the United States which has led up to the methods advocated in the article entitled "Contour Planting and Terracing".

Western Farm Life for July 15 says that "Forest Outings" edited by Russell Lord and published by the Department is "one of the most beautifully illustrated and printed books to come to our attention...For persons interested in the government's efforts to develop the great outdoors, this book is worthwhile."

An article entitled "34 Owners and Mr. Henninger" by Curtis J. Spalding, head of the Land Utilization Project at Roundup, Montana, appeared in the May-June issue of Land Policy Review.

"Review and Discussion of Literature Pertinent to Crop Rotations for Erodible Soils", USDA Circular 559, by C. R. Enlow, Chief, Agronomy Division, is now available.

"Techniques of Hydrologic Research" by H. S. Riesbol, hydraulic engineer at Coshocton, Ohio, appeared in the July issue of Agricultural Engineering. This is the report presented by the author before the Soil and Water Conservation Division at the December 1939 meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Mr. Riesbol is chairman of the A.S.A.E. Committee on Hydrology.

"Is Wildlife Management Worthwhile to the Farmer?", by Frank C. Edminister, Chief, Region 1 Biology Division, is the title of an article in the June issue of Pennsylvania Game News.

Printed in the July issue of Journal of Forestry is a report of cooperative research between the Hillculture Division, SCS, and the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, BPI, titled "Propagation of Black Locust Clones by Treating Hardwood Cuttings with Growth Substances" by Stoutemyer, Jester, and O'Rourke.

"Role of Soil Depletion in Land Valuation" by Donald B. Ibach, of the Economic Surveys Division, appeared in the May issue of Journal of Farm Economics.

INVENTORY OF CAPABILITY RESOURCES

Allan McClellan, Head, Region 1 Training Section, has issued a questionnaire on "Technical Skills" to find what is needed in the way of training for personnel in line with the districts' program.

The questionnaire lists items in all technical fields which should be known by all technicians to equip them for preparing complete conservation plans.

Mr. McClellan states, "we have summarized the capabilities of professional and sub-professional personnel in West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The men are quite frank in their appraisal of themselves."

The same plan is to be used for technicians over the entire region. Similar questionnaires have been devised for clerks, stenographers, and custodians.

EXPERIMENT IN PRESERVING EUCALYPTUS POSTS

George Gosline, Area Conservationist, Watsonville, California, mentions an interesting experiment in the treatment of eucalyptus trees for fence posts using mercuric chloride and sodium chloride salts as a preservative.

In the experiment, a three-quarter inch hole is bored two-thirds of the way through the post that is being treated and a level tablespoonful of a mixture of mercuric and sodium chloride salts is pushed into the hole. The hole is then plugged. This treatment is given soon after the posts are cut in order that the sap in the wood will help dissolve and distribute the preservative.

Seven different combinations of salts --ten posts being treated with each combination -- are being tried. A number of standard redwood posts are set into the line as a check.

Standard redwood posts are worth $22\frac{1}{2}$ cents as compared to 8 cents for eucalyptus. Because of this, eucalyptus seedlings are being planted beside the more expensive redwood posts that are expected to rot away during the next two or three years.

Ragweed-Hay Fever-Soil Conservation

"But there is a cure for the ragweed evil. It is soil conservation." If you are a hay-fever victim you'll want to read Roger P. Wodehouse's article "Hold that Sneeze!" in the July issue of the Rotarian. You may want to quote the following from Mr. Wodehouse's article to every cooperating farmer you suspect of being a hay-fever victim -- "True, it (ragweed) flourishes on all kinds of abuse which disturbs the soil. But because it is an annual and must start afresh each year from seed, it readily yields to the pressure of its perennial competitors...take over the ragweed's job and reclaim in your own way the land where it grows."

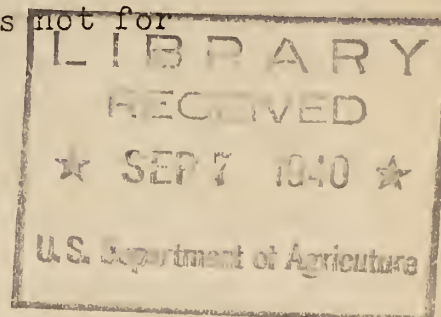
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YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Let's take a look at that creature of cooperative effort, the committee.

The purpose of committees is usually cooperation and coordination, to secure a unanimity of purpose or a mutual-ity of understanding. They are composed of representatives of divisions or offices, who retain their identity as such, for quite obvious reasons, while serving on the committee.

Granting that committees are necessary as the most effective means of coordinating a complex undertaking, why is it that they are frequently so ineffectual, slow, and laborious in their operation? (Someone might ask, "Are they?" and I would answer, "Most of those I've seen are.")

Well, I think there are several answers; maybe you have more:

1. The provincial attitude of the membership. (As I have mentioned, an employee is not classified as a committee-man; he is classified as one of the staff of an administrative unit. When designated on a committee he sometimes feels that he must preserve all the prerogatives of that unit, even at the expense of the program as a whole. This is probably a natural tendency that may be encouraged by supervisory officials.)
2. The human's fondness for hearing his own voice. (Committees made up of those who listen only for opportunities to declaim their own opinions accomplish nothing. Many committees develop into oratorical derbies in which the participants, fascinated at their own clever forensic gymnastics, waste the time of the committeemen, delay the work, and destroy whatever enthusiasm and interest there may have been.)

3. The tendency to regard committee work as outside the regular scope of duty. (It is quite natural that one should place his work for his division or office before that of the committee. He is classified for that work; it is in his job description; his pay and ratings are based upon it, and he must do it well. Therefore, if attending committee meetings or working on committee matters interferes with his regular duties, he will forsake the former.)

4. The unavailability of the best talent for committee work. (Too frequently, the best administrative or technical talent cannot be spared for committee work. Assistants or clerks are assigned - perhaps ones who are not entrusted with important regular duties - because it is assumed they have time and the best qualified do not. Frequently, better equipped men send substitutes to serve for them, substitutes without the benefit of attendance at the previous meetings, or without the necessary background, or without authority to speak for the unit they represent.)

5. Ineffectual chairmanship. (In a sense, the chairman is usually the committee; the others help him. The committee is appointed to do a job. It is the responsibility of the chairman to see that the job is done with the least amount of bickering, lost time and lost motion. If the committee is too large, he should assign portions of the job to one or two members who can work together successfully. On the other hand, the chairman should draw out the ideas of the committee rather than just try to force through his own ideas.)

Committees are not supposed to hamper, impede, and confuse things; they are supposed to accomplish things!

WILL SOIL-CONSERVING METHODS SURVIVE?

At one time or another most of us in the Soil Conservation Service have asked the question: "Will farmers continue to follow the conservation programs worked out for their land after the five-year cooperative agreement has expired?"

I think they will: And one of the principal reasons for this confidence is the improved attitude on the part of Service personnel who deal directly with farmers.

In soil conservation districts particularly, contacts with farmers are based on a better personal understanding and more emphasis on education. The farm planner meets the prospective cooperator on common ground, offering his technical knowledge and experience, in exchange for the farmer's long years of practical experience, his personal preferences, and common sense. The chances are that the type of farm plan that comes out of such a composite of ideas will be more effective, and certainly more apt to result in the permanent use of soil-conserving methods.

Farm planning, in short, has become more and more a public relations job. The people engaged in this particular phase of the Service program have an opportunity to build lasting public good will. Their job is a challenge to their own ability to deal with divergent personalities.

H. C. "Doc" Diener of the Washington office recently prepared a statement called "The Human Element in Farm Planning". It was sent out from Washington on July 15 as Farm Planning and Management Circular No. 5. Many of you have probably already read it, but in case you haven't, here are some of the points it makes: Appreciate the other man's point of view; be friendly; let the other person talk; let the other person use your ideas; let the cooperator be responsible; call attention to the benefits of desirable activities; begin with what you have; make an appeal; avoid disagreements; admit errors; expect the cooperator to make an investment; develop an appreciation of leadership; plan your work.

H. H. BENNETT

SERVICE ORGANIZATION STUDIED

Not long ago the Service asked the Bureau of the Budget to look over the work of the SCS. The idea was to give the people who are trying to help us with our budget a better understanding of what we are doing, how we are using our funds, and what some of our problems are.

As a result, Mr. S. R. Broadbent of the Budget Bureau accompanied J. S. Barnes and G. G. Smith of the Washington office, and Dr. Buie, Region 2 Conservator, to area and district

offices in South Carolina and Georgia. In South Carolina they were met by F. A. McNamara of the Bureau of the Budget, in charge of Special Assignments, who spent two days with the party.

J. S. Barnes and Henry Herrell accompanied Mr. Broadbent into the Upper Chattahoochee River district at Gainesville, Georgia, and the area office at Athens. Mr. Broadbent was at one time Forest Supervisor with the Forest Service at Upper Chattahoochee. A detailed work-load analysis of the areas was made to determine the problems, objectives, procedures, and accomplishments of the program to date. Mr. Broadbent's familiarity with the territory and his acquaintance with many of the cooperators was of material help in his study.

Mr. Broadbent accompanied by Arnold Davis also went into the Edisto district at Aiken, South Carolina to conduct a similar study there of a district which operates under different conditions than the one studied in Georgia.

Service officials in the Washington office in collaboration with the Bureau of the Budget are making an analysis of the extent of travel that was performed, regions visited, and time spent in each region during the last fiscal year by all Washington employees on official travel. This material is being developed for management purposes and to determine to what extent travel is being planned to prevent overlapping and duplication of effort.

Service officials who accompanied Mr. Broadbent feel that to have the representatives of the Bureau of the Budget fully familiar with the work of the SCS, its problems and organization, will be of material assistance in connection with budget presentation. G. G. Smith stated that "Bureau of the Budget representatives seemed to be well pleased with the work of the Service."

CHIEF TO ADDRESS MEETINGS

Dr. Bennett will address the Forest Preserve Association of New York State at their annual meeting at Lake George, New York, August 17.

On September 9 the Chief will address the "Conservation Day" meeting at Decatur, Illinois.

STATUS OF EMPLOYEES CALLED FOR MILITARY DUTY

- "Current expansion of the Nation's defense forces has raised the question of the status of employees of the Department who are called for military duty.
- "There is no legislative or executive requirement that employees who voluntarily go into such service be restored to their civilian positions at the completion of military duty. The Department, however, desires to cooperate in every way possible with the defense program.
- "It shall therefore be the policy of the Department to grant leave without pay to employees who go into military service, either for training or for active duty. Within appropriation limits, such employees shall be restored to their positions upon the completion of military service, provided they are physically and mentally qualified to resume their former duties.
- "Because of current restrictions, leave without pay cannot be granted for any purpose for a period in excess of one year, so that military service lasting more than one year cannot at present be included under the policy stated above. However, the Council of Personnel Administration, speaking for all government agencies, is now seeking removal of this time restriction in cases of military service. You will be advised as soon as action is taken in this direction.
- "It should be emphasized that the above policy is applicable to all employees who go into military service, whether or not they are now members of the military and naval reserve forces.."

Roy F. Hendrickson
Director of Personnel

SOIL DRIFTING LEGISLATION IN CANADA

SCS personnel will be interested in comparing districts legislation in this country (especially Sections 9, 10, and 11 of the Standard Act) with soil drifting legislation in Canada.

Largely as a result of the severe dust storms of 1935 and 1936 in the Northern Great Plains, which extend into Canada, the Canadian Provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have

passed legislation designed to check wind erosion and correct those land-use conditions which brought on or contributed to severe soil blowing.

In Alberta Province an act passed in 1927 to remove sub-marginal land from cultivation, although reducing the acreage subject to soil drifting, was not considered adequate. Hence in 1936 the Soil Drifting Act of Alberta was passed. This act enables the owners of land which has been damaged by soil drifting to bring action for damages against the owner or occupier of land on which the drifting has occurred if the land has not been summer fallowed to prevent drifting. Failure to adopt specified conservation practices is considered by the court as prima facie evidence of negligence.

Saskatchewan passed an act in 1935 which set up a land-utilization board to control all public lands, with power to declare certain other areas unsuitable for cultivation. A soil-drifting control act was passed in 1938. This act is somewhat similar to districts legislation in the United States in that it empowers rural municipalities to pass bylaws directing occupants to take certain measures to prevent soil drifting. Non-compliance with such orders entitles the municipality to undertake control measures and charge the cost to the land concerned.

Manitoba was the last of the Prairie Provinces to pass soil-drifting control legislation. The Land Rehabilitation Act of 1939 embodies the principal features of the Saskatchewan Soil Drifting Control Act.

Recently a Canadian Regional Committee on Soil Drifting was named to appraise the effects of the various types of legislation enacted and to suggest changes which might be necessary. In this connection a questionnaire embodying questions on soil drifting legislation, adoption of control measures, use of machinery, and use of land was submitted to the committee members.

In Alberta Province, in answer to the questionnaire issued by the Committee, officials disclosed that legislation could be improved if local organizations would agree to enforce soil-drifting control. Individual farmers hesitate to initiate civil action against a neighbor.

In Manitoba officials felt that demonstrational work was very much needed. Soil drifting was excessive there in 1939 and

1940, and legislation had not been adopted sufficiently long to test its effectiveness.

In Saskatchewan, one of the officials stated that, in his opinion, the improper use of implements has contributed more to soil drifting than any other one factor.

Officials of all three Prairie Provinces concur that education of farmers is greatly needed to supplement legislation.

NORTON TO TEACH COURSE AT TEXAS A. AND M.

E. A. Norton, Chief, Physical Surveys Division, is now at College Station, Texas, where he is teaching a 3-weeks' course on "Soil Classification and Mapping" at Texas A. and M.

The course is offered by the Agronomy Department. It is open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. In the course, Mr. Norton is stressing the importance of soil conservation from the standpoint of different soil types in agricultural regions of the United States.

STANDARDIZATION OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

Secretary Wallace recently approved a recommendation to put the Department under the "International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature". The Secretary's action means that from now on these rules will be official for publications, reports, and correspondence involving scientific plant names.

For sometime the committee, composed of representatives from Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Plant Industry, has been working with the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature on the standardization of scientific and common names of plants. It was through the recommendation of this committee that the Department of Agriculture officially adopted the "International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature", adopted by the International Botanical Congresses of Vienna, 1905, and Brussels, 1910, and revised by the Congress of Cambridge, 1930.

The significance of the Secretary's decision is that from now on the names in the Departmental publications dealing with plants will coincide generally with names used by other scientists.

SOUTHWESTERN GRASSLAND CONFERENCE

The Southwestern Grassland Conference, sponsored by the Southern Great Plains Committee, will be held in Amarillo, Texas September 5 and 6.

This conference will be preceded by a 4-day tour starting at Woodward, Oklahoma on September 1 and ending at Amarillo, Texas on September 4. The tour will include visits to some of the State Experiment Stations, areas where conservationists are attempting the revegetation of grassland, and particularly observation of the adaptation plantings that the Service Nursery Division is making.

The tour will be especially for those interested in the technical phases of re-establishing grassland. The grassland conference, on the other hand is for the general public, in keeping with the Secretary's desires to stimulate local interest in grassland agriculture.

The last of these series of grassland conferences being held all over the United States will be the Northcentral Regional Grassland Conference. This conference, sponsored by the Cornbelt Section of the American Society of Agronomy and Northcentral Experiment Station Director's Association at Ames, Iowa, will be held September 11.

Attention Field Personnel!

Did you know that if you cannot obtain a publication from your regional library for use in official work, that the facilities of all Washington libraries--Library of Congress, the various Department libraries--are at your disposal. Just tell your regional librarian what publication you want and she will get it for you.

PRINTERS' INK

"A New Centrifuge Tube for Heavy Mineral Separation" by W. E. Bertholf, Jr., Research office, Chicago, Illinois, is the title of an article which appeared in the August issue of Journal of Sedimentary Petrology.

Soil Conservation Bibliography No. 1 is the first to be issued in a series planned by the Library. It is called "Wind Erosion and Sand Dune Control", and was compiled by Ruby Wilson Moats, Assistant Librarian. There are 443 citations to literature on wind erosion and sand dune control. This bibliography brings up to date the references first issued in Bulletin 68 of the U.S. Bureau of Soils in 1911, by Sturtz and Free.

"Land Economics" by Richard T. Ely and George S. Wahrwein, New York, 1940 is one of the new additions to the Service Library.

"Influences of Vegetation and Watershed Treatment on Run-Off, Silting and Stream Flow", Miscellaneous Publication 397, a progress report of research, has been issued jointly by the Forest Service and SCS.

"The Round Table as a whole believes that the work of the Soil Conservation Service is on sound lines and should be extended" -- Excerpt from "The Seventh Fortune Round Table" in the July issue of Fortune.

"Regeneration and Vegetative Propagation" is the title of an article by Charles F. Swingle, Nursery Division, Manhattan, Kansas, appearing in the July issue of The Botanical Review published at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"The Land Owner's Opportunity" by Forrest V. Durand, Region 3, appeared in the August issue of The Kentucky Sportsman.

"How Snow Surveys Are Made" by R. L. Parshall, Senior Irrigation Engineer at Fort Collins, is the title of an article in the May issue of Through The Leaves, a bi-monthly published by The Great Western Sugar Company, Denver, Colorado.

County Planning Series No. 7 prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with Federal, State and local agencies interested in land-use planning has come from the press. This series, started in 1940, includes information on the scope of land-use planning programs.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the Hell and Mud Creeks Demonstration Project Mississippi" by D. T. Webb, Erosion Survey 12 has been printed. Eleven "Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions" reports have been published as unnumbered publications. This report is the first to be numbered in this series. However, previously published reports will be given numbers 1 through 11.

A Measure of Erosion-Control Plant Cover

"A Photographic Transect for Determining Soil-Cover Index of Vegetation" by Ben Osborn, Biologist at Fort Worth, Texas, illustrated by R. W. Hufnagle, Region 7 Photographer, in the July issue of Ecology tells of a method of measuring the soil-protective value of vegetation.

The method described "is an adaptation of the tristat or photographic quadrat. It consists of inserting a white ruler between the cover and the soil and photographing it from such a distance that the figures on the ruler (or those portions which show through the vegetation) can be read on the prints. It is then possible to calculate on each print the percentage of the ruler which is obscured by the cover and to use this value to express the degree of protection afforded the soil."

The author hopes that the photographic transect method may be tested by other workers under a wide variety of conditions.

SERVICE PERSONNEL USING LIBRARY FACILITIES

Mildred C. Benton, in charge of the SCS Library, states, "use is definitely being made of library material by SCS personnel. Of the 482 publications sent to field offices by the Department Library from July - December 1939, 242, or half, were for SCS personnel."

Each year there has been a steady increase in circulation. Loans to the field are five times more than they were during 1938. During the past year, 991 publications were sent out.

Periodical circulation in Washington has increased considerably. Of the 311 periodicals currently received, 61 are purchased by SCS, 78 are sent as gifts, and 7 through exchange arrangements, making a total of 146 received direct by Soil Conservation Service and 165 from the Department Library for circulation to Service personnel. As each new employee joins the Washington staff, he is sent a list of available periodicals and asked to check those which he wishes to see regularly in connection with official work.

Not only does the Service receive more than half of the publications sent out from the Department Library, but due to the broad interests of Service personnel, it was necessary to borrow 682 publications from outside libraries other than USDA during the past year. While the majority of these were from the Library of Congress, loans were also requested from many of the larger university libraries, such as Purdue and Chicago.

LARGEST SCS-CCC DAM IN SOUTHWEST

The Spring Canyon Dam at Hatch, New Mexico, the largest concrete structure of its kind ever built by the SCS and CCC in the Southwest region is now completed.

One of the most significant features of the construction was that not a single lost-time accident occurred in the CCC crews, totaling about 150 enrollees, while this job, involving 58,598 man-hours was under way.

Designed as a part of the watershed program in the Rio Grande valley, the dam will check flood crests coming from a 3500-acre drainage area above Spring Canyon. These floods have, in the past, been known to create as high as \$25,000 damage in one season. In addition to water retardation, the dam will improve forage conditions and check excessive soil erosion on range lands.

Current Releases of Government Films

"Pork on the Farm" (16 & 35 mm. sound) Time: 20 minutes	How to grow hogs for home use, how to slaughter, cut and cure.	Extension Service, Washington, D.C.
"By Highway to the Canal" (16 mm. silent, color) Time: 22 minutes	Scenic trip from Mexico to Panama along Pan American Highway from Laredo to Panama	Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.

ROBERT FLAHERTY MAKING USDA FILM

Robert Flaherty is making a USDA film to be called "The Land" to be released sometime this fall. Russell Lord in commenting on this picture in his article "Soil and Man" in the June issue of Country Life says "one thing, he (Flaherty) feels, that must rise and shine in this film is our basic new design for agriculture, field twisting on the contour".

Mr. Lord remarks that Mr. Flaherty, who has filmed such great documentary films as "Nanook of the North" and "Man of Aran", has seen in the North American dust country "privation springing from soil displacement and human displacement that is worse than any privation he ever saw in the far North, on the rocky isle of Aran, or in India".

TRAINING AREA FOR FARM BOYS

The Farm Security Administration has acquired a 2500-acre tract of land in Nacogdoches County, Texas, for use as a training area for farm boys. When the project is finished, it will accommodate 150 boys.

The Soil Conservation Service was called on to plan the use of the land, aiding the boys to fence the proper amount of land for wildlife and plant appropriate food thereon. The Service estimated that 400 acres should be placed in cultivation, 1500 acres in pasture, and 600 acres in forest.

Technicians from other agencies as well as the Service will advise the boys as to proper methods of land improvement, but the work, which has already started, will be done by the boys themselves.

Soil Conservation and
National Defense

"In considering the means of national defense it must not be forgotten that preservation of the land is as important to protection as the task of keeping borders inviolate. The strongest armies and navies would not save a country which has lost its internal resources. This nation must be willing to pay the price of conservation just as it is willing to pay for its armed forces."--Excerpt from editorial in the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, July 29, 1940.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES COMPLETED

The lively interest that was shown through-out the Washington letter-writing conferences was evidenced at the final meeting July 31 when D. S. Myer read comments of various SCS officials regarding the series. Typical of these comments is the following:

"To me, one of the most important things accomplished by our series of letter-writing conferences is the change brought about in the psychology of most of our letter writers. Those who write letters as part of their every day work are frequently found to overlook the importance of certain intangibles in a letter which can either make it a good letter or a complete failure. Through discussion in the letter-writing conferences, most of us learned to recognize such intangible factors as tone, clarity, conciseness, etc."

TVA Develops Furrow Seeder

TVA has developed a new furrow seeder and turned it over to private industry to manufacture. The seeder is horse-drawn and designed especially to cut a furrow through thick lespedeza sod, deposit small grain and fertilizer and partly refill the furrow. Run on the contour, the furrow holds water and soil, and thus aids the fall-seeded small grain in protecting the field from washing during winter. (Farm Journal & Farmer's Wife, June.)

TO FIGHT FATIGUE

"The Bradianus Manuscript", a translation by Emily Wolcott Emmart of an Aztec herbal of 1552--America's earliest medical book--is among the more recent additions of the Department Library.

It is a purely Mexican product showing no traces of European influence. Botanists will welcome the publication for research purposes as the 184 facsimile plates in color are the earliest known pictures of American botany.

Maybe the Aztecs, 385 years ago, had a remedy for a common ailment of today that might be worth looking into:

Trees and Flowers for the Fatigue of those Administering the Government and Holding Public Office: The bark of the trees, the flowers of magnolia, popcorn, almond, cacao, basket, black flower (vanilla), rope flower, and all good-smelling summer flowers, the leaves of the trees--pine, apple, wood incense, strawberry, tomato, oak, and pleasant tree; flowering summer herbs with their stems, "...which you are to gather early in the morning..."

Likewise the blood of wild animals, namely red ocelot, Mexican wolf, mountain lion, white ocelot, medium-sized ocelot, white skunk, and coyote is to be sought; "so that the body may be anointed with it together with the above-mentioned juices."

In the second place, precious stones should be thrown into the water. "Indeed these medicaments bestow the bodily strength of a gladiator, drive weariness far away, and finally, drive out fear and fortify the human heart. In addition, a leading man or any one else, who wishes to obtain this rebuilding of the body, should eat the flesh of a white rabbit or of a white fox whelp, either roasted or boiled."